

If food or drink (other than pre-packaged) will be served at a festival or event, event producers must obtain a Health Permit from the Maricopa County Health Department

The Maricopa County Environmental Services Department is the regulatory authority that issues "temporary food service establishment" permits for food and beverage concessions at special events. It is the Department's responsibility to regulate the food sold at these events. If food or drink is not prepared and handled in a sanitary manner, the public's health may be at risk.

Requirements:

In order to sell or give away any food or beverage product at an event, you are required to apply for a "Temporary Food Service Establishment" permit and pay an associated permit fee. Please read the following Food and Beverage Vendor Checklist for additional requirements and information. The Guide to Temporary Food Service at Special Events and Application for Temporary Food Service Establishment Permit may be filled out on-line, downloaded and printed.

- A completed (pages one and two) application and \$70.00 permit fee per booth must be submitted seven days prior to the start of the event. All payments must be Arizona checks or money orders. Please make checks payable to MCESD.
- The Temporary Food Service permit will be issued at the event after a passing inspection has been completed. Please refer to the Guide to Temporary Food Service At Special Events for the requirements. Effective July 1, 2007, **inspectors can no longer accept payments for Temporary Food Service Permits on site, at events. All permits must be paid for by vendors in advance.**
- Only those vendors selling bottled water or canned soda (unopened, from an approved source) are exempt from obtaining a Temporary Food Service permit. All other vendors, regardless of product, are required to obtain a permit and pay the required fee per booth.
- Those individuals who currently possess a valid Maricopa County Mobile Food, Pushcart, Food Peddler or Catering permit are not required to pay the permit fee. However, a copy of the permit is required.

Note: It is the event producer's responsibility to read over the guidelines to determine whether or not a health permit is required for any food vendors at their event. If you are not in compliance with Maricopa County Environmental Services Guidelines, it should be noted that a health inspector **could shut down your food operation the day of the event**. If this should occur, the City of Tempe will not be held liable for loss of income.

For questions or requests for additional information, contact Jessica Reighard, Program Coordinator at:

Maricopa County Environmental Health Department

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Applications and guidelines can be downloaded at:

<http://www.maricopa.gov/envsvc/ENVHLTH/SPPRGM/spcevent.asp>